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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/747,400	12/22/2000	Roland Radtke	60001.0002US01	8785
27488	7590	07/15/2005	EXAMINER	
MICROSOFT CORPORATION C/O MERCHANT & GOULD, L.L.C. P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			PILLAI, NAMITHA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2173

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/747,400	RADTKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Namitha Pillai	Art Unit 2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's response submitted on 6/10/05, withdrawing the Appeal and including amendments to claims 1, 6, 7 and 12. All pending claims have been rejected, wherein the previous rejection has been maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 4, 899, 276 (Stadler).

Referring to claims 1 and 7, Stadler discloses providing a plurality of data fields amongst these fields, there being a first data field and a second data field, wherein the user would be in a first data field and the next field the user would move to would be the second data field (column 1, lines 21-24 and column 3, line 17). Stadler discloses being in a first data field, thereby bringing focus to that first field, that being the current data field that the user is entering data onto and solely in response to focusing on the first field, displaying a first static information tip proximate to the first data field (column 2, lines 33-37). Stadler then further discusses moving onto the next field, thereby focusing on the second data field, wherein once the user has finished inputting data into the first field, and has pressed "ENTER", the focus is brought to the second data field and the first static information tip is hidden from view (column 3, lines 17-20 and lines

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61-65). Stadler also discloses repeating the same steps as was the case for the first field once the user has moved onto the second data field, wherein this suggests, as was the case for the first data field, bringing focus to that second field, that being the current data field that the user is entering data onto and in response to focusing on the second and current field, displaying static information tip proximate to the second data field, wherein the tip would be associated with the data in the second data field (column 3, lines 17-18 and column 2, lines 33-37). Stadler discloses that the first static tip does not interrupt data input into the first data field (column 3, lines 55-58) and whereby the first information tip remains displayed until the step of focusing on the second data field, the step being pressing “ENTER”, which would move the cursor and focus from the first data field to the subsequent second data field (column 3, lines 61-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stadler as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,646,250 (Childress) and U. S. Patent No. 5,736,984 (Jellinek et al).

Referring to claims 2 and 8, Stadler does disclose entering data in the first data field (column 3, line 17). Stadler does not disclose means for detecting or handling errors within these fields, as recited in the claims. Childress discloses determining that the data entered into the first field is erroneous and having a means to place error markers adjacent to the first data field,

where the errors are found, thereby bringing focus to the first data (column 2, lines 13-20 and lines 37-39). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Childress to implement a means for detecting and bringing focus to the first data field that as the erroneous input. Stadler has means for allowing users to input data but as is common with data entry, erroneous data inputs are inevitable. There is no means in Stadler's disclosure for detecting these errors, which would be inevitable in any data entry system. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Childress to implement error detection and highlighting means.

Stadler and Childress do not provide means for displaying a third static information tip proximate to the first data field, as recited in the claims. Jellinek discloses providing tips proximate to the data field, the tip providing means for correcting the errors detected, with the third static information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the data field (Figure 7 and column 7, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a third static tip information for the data field wherein an error was detected. Stadler and Childress do have the means for detecting errors but provides no tip information to correct this error, thereby causing confusion for users who may not know how to fix the errors. As clearly stated in Jellinek, the disclosure states how this invention clearly teaches means for displaying a message to fix the error without being intrusive and wherein the users would simply follow this third static tip to correct the errors. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a static third information tip which would not be obtrusive to the data field.

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Referring to claims 3 and 9, Stadler, Childress and Jellinek discloses moving to a second data field and repeating the same process for manipulating this data field (Stadler, column 3, lines 17-18), wherein these steps include the steps recited in claim 2, in reference to the detection and the displaying of error tip information for the second data field.

Referring to claims 4, 5, 10 and 11, Stadler, Childress and Jellinek disclose displaying an error marker proximate to the first and second data fields, and included in all data fields with erroneous data fields (Childress, column 2, lines 37-40).

Referring to claims 6 and 12, Stadler discloses focusing all a first data field, and solely in response to focusing on the first data field, wherein a first static information tip proximate to the first data field (column 2, lines 39-41). Stadler also discloses entering data in the first data field while continuing to display the first static information tip (column 3, lines 61-64). Stadler also discloses moving onto another data field from the first data field, that wherein once the "ENTER" has pressed to move onto the next field, the first static information tip would be hidden from view (column 3, lines 63-65). Stadler does not disclose means for detecting or handling errors within these fields, as recited in the claims. Childress discloses determining that the data entered into the first field is erroneous and having a means to place error markers adjacent to the first data field, where the errors are found, thereby bringing focus to the first data (column 2, lines 13-20 and lines 37-39). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to learn from Childress to implement a means for detecting and bringing focus to the first data field that as the erroneous input. Stadler has means for allowing users to input data but as is common with data entry, erroneous data inputs are inevitable. There is no means in Stadler's disclosure for detecting these errors, which would inevitable in any data

entry system. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Childress to implement error detection and highlighting means.

Stadler and Childress do not provide means for displaying a second static information tip proximate to the first data field, as recited in the claims. Jellinek discloses providing tips proximate to the data field, the tip providing means for correcting the errors detected, with the second static information tip not interrupting the corrective data input into the data field (Figure 7 and column 7, lines 36-40). It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing second static tip information for the data field wherein an error was detected. Stadler and Childress do have the means for detecting errors but provides no tip information to correct this error, thereby causing confusion for users who may not know how to fix the errors. As clearly stated in Jellinek, the disclosure states how this invention clearly teaches means for displaying a message to fix the error without being intrusive and wherein the users would simply follow this second static tip to correct the errors. Hence, one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention, would have been motivated to learn from Jellinek to implement a means for providing a static third information tip which would not be obtrusive to the data field.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 6/10/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to Applicant's arguments that Stadler does not teach solely in response to focusing on a data field, displaying the tip information proximate to the data field. Focusing involves the user bringing attention to a distinct element on a user interface, with the data field

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being this element. Focusing can be represented through various examples, wherein the user gazes at, brings a pointer close to, enters input into, clicks on and in combination with other functional steps bring focus to a data field. Stadler does teach that the user places a pointer, and there is a step of a further function to display the tip information. Regardless, the tip information can only be placed solely based on bringing focus to a data field. The step of placing the pointer by itself, the step of pressing the function key by itself and the combination of placing the pointer and pressing the function key all represent the one key process of bringing focus. It is inherent that the user or system must bring focus to a data field to display tip information pertaining to that field. Prior arts used in this rejection and known in the field of data field inputting and error message displaying, would indicate that any data field that requires user interaction, and further displays error messages pertaining to a distinct data field, would teach that focus must be brought to that data field in order for tip information pertaining to that field. A user interface with various different elements and data fields would not be able to provide tip information without there being a focus process.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method for providing tip information.

Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (Office) requires most patent related correspondence to be:

- a) faxed to the Central FAX number (571-273-8300) (updated as of July 15, 2005), b) hand

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carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), **c)** mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or **d)** transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System. On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300. Faxes sent to the old number will be routed to the new number until September 15, 2005. After September 15, 2005, the old number will no longer be in service and 571-273-8300 will be the only facsimile number recognized for "centralized delivery." The official notice dated June 20, 2005 also includes an "updated list of exceptions to the centralized delivery and facsimile transmission policy for patent related correspondence." Questions regarding this notice may be e-mailed to PatentPractice@uspto.gov, or directed to the Inventors' Assistance Center by telephone at 800-786-9199, or 571-272-1000.

Please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT" for informal facsimile communications. For after final responses, please label "AFTER FINAL" or "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE" on the document.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.

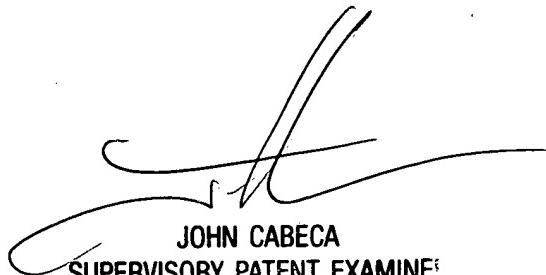
All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly

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signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
July 8, 2005



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